

The Boxwood Bulletin

A quarterly of the American Boxwood Society devoted to our oldest garden ornamental



April 2006

Vol. 45 No. 4



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The American Boxwood Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus L.* For any information about boxwood and the Society, please don't hesitate to contact us at
American Boxwood Society
POB 85, Boyce, VA 22620-0085

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**It's time to renew
your annual membership
in the American
Boxwood Society. An
envelope is enclosed
for your convenience.**

Many thanks!

*(The membership year is from
May 1 to April 30 each year)*

Front Cover: A dwarf *Buxus* species was discovered at an altitude of about 2000m on the east side of Mt. Olympus above Prionia near Refuge "A".

Back Cover: A *Buxus* species with brilliant blue foliage was discovered by Dr. Tomasz Anisko on dry, rocky soil in a goat pasture only a few miles from the important archeological site at Dion.

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TWO CENTS

Hi Folks!

This issue will take you on a great trip to Greece and through the dwarf boxwood collection at the Dawes Arboretum with Rich Larson. We can sit, warm in our easy chairs, while people tell us all about distant places and favorite plants.

This is my final issue as editor of the **Boxwood Bulletin** and I just wanted to thank all of you who were so gracious and kind through the past year. Your positive responses and encouragement have been very rewarding.

Thanks!
Donna



Notice to our Membership

The following changes to the American Boxwood Society's Bylaws will be brought before the membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting in May:

Article III of the Bylaws now reads:

III. "Nominations and Elections: The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members, only one of whom may be a member of the Governing Board. This committee shall present a slate of Officers and Directors to the members at the annual meeting. Nominations made by this committee do not preclude nominations from the floor. A majority of the votes shall constitute election."

Proposed change to read:

III. "Nominations and Elections: The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members, any of whom may be on the Board of Directors, but excluding those who currently serve as Officers. This committee shall present a slate of Officers and Directors to the members at the annual meeting. Nominations made by this committee do not preclude nominations from the floor. A majority of the votes shall constitute election."

Article VI of the Bylaws now reads:

VI. "Amendments: These bylaws may be amended in part or whole by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present or represented by proxy vote at an annual or other meeting, provided that notice of any proposed change has been sent to all members not less than thirty days prior to the meeting."

Proposed change to read:

VI. "Amendments: The Board of Directors shall have the Power to make and amend bylaws for the government of the organization by a majority vote at any meeting where a quorum of the Directors is present. The membership shall be informed of the change in the bylaws, as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. The membership may amend or repeal the bylaws by a two-thirds vote of those present or represented by a proxy vote at any annual or other meeting, provided that notice of any proposed change shall be sent to the Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to the date set for the annual or other meeting."

COLLECTING BALKAN BOXWOOD IN GREECE

HENRY F. FRIERSON, JR., MD

Important cultivars of *Buxus sempervirens* have been developed from plants grown from seed collected in 1934 by Edgar Anderson of the Arnold Arboretum, when he explored what is now the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1). From July 18 through August 8, 2005, Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Charles Fooks, and I traveled to northern Greece to search for and collect native *B. sempervirens*. The expedition had been organized by Dr. Anisko in consultation with Dr. Kalliopi "Poppy" Radoglou, Deputy Director of the Forest Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Foundation in Thessaloniki. Dr. Radoglou had recruited several of her colleagues to assist with the expedition, and they included Dr. Kostas Theodoropoulos, Dr. Eleni Eleftheriadou, Dr. George Efthimiou, Dr. Nikos Krigas, and students Fodos Xystrakis and Grigoris Morakis. In preparation for visiting specific sites for our expedition, Dr. Radoglou had studied the literature and old maps for the presence of populations of boxwood, but the information about its distribution was incomplete, as it had not been actively managed by the Greek forestry service. In addition, she had sent a special questionnaire to over 100 forest district offices in all regions of the country inquiring about the presence and locations of boxwood. Dr. Radoglou had received a response rate of about 80%, with some forest officials indicating no boxwood, while others confirming its presence. Dr. Radoglou's decision to include specific areas for exploration was based upon the certainty of the location of *Buxus*, the variety of ecosystems (such as high mountains, forests, degraded areas, and understory vegetation), and distance between sites. It was estimated that we investigated 60% of the existing *Buxus* populations.



Figure 1: Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Dr. Kostas Theodoropoulos, Mr. Charles Fooks, Dr. Eleni Eleftheriadou, and Mr. Fodos Xystrakis pose among a particularly interesting group of boxwood in a field not very far from the ancient archeological site of Dion.

The ancient Greek name for *Buxus* is *pyxos*, while the common name is *pyxari* (also *tsimsiri*). Native *Buxus* in Greece is not cultivated for ornamental purposes and little boxwood is used in the Greek landscape. The few ornamental boxwood that we observed were those chiefly imported from Italy and consisted of *B. microphylla* var. *japonica*, usually planted in containers. As there was no Greek collection of native *Buxus*, we also made collections for the Balkan Botanic Garden, located in Kilkis (municipality of Kroussia) about 70 km north-east of Thessaloniki near the borders of Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This botanic garden had been formed about five years previously with financial assistance from the European Union.



Figure 2: This handsome pale blue boxwood was found in the same area as illustrated in Figure 1. See back page for full color photograph of this beautiful boxwood.

Buxus sempervirens is found naturally in the mountains of northern Greece where it grows on limestone slopes in open spaces in the sub-alpine zone and in degraded areas. At lower elevations, it usually is found as an understory plant in several ecosystems that feature *Pinus halepensis*, *Abies borisii-regis*, *Quercus frainneto*, *Fagus sylvatica*, or *Pinus nigra* (K. Radoglou communication).



Figure 3: Dr. Anisko inspects goat-pruned boxwood.

In our first week, we explored areas on Mt. Olympus. The description of *Buxus* located here was nicely detailed by Arne Strid in his book *Wild Flowers of Mount Olympus* (published in 1980 by The Goulandris Natural History Museum) in which he noted that it grows:

1-2 m tall (smaller at high altitude); common as a constituent of undergrowth in *Fagus* forest, particularly in damp rocky places between c. 700 and 1500 m; dominant on deforested slopes on the southern side from c. 1300 to 2000 m; locally forming a low sub-alpine shrub together with *Juniperus communis ssp. nana*, *Daphne oleoides*, and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (at 1700-1900 m on the north side); flowers in April and May.

On our first day of collecting, we explored areas up to 760 m elevation and made 11 collections of cuttings and seeds of plants that we believed might have ornamental merit. We found *Buxus* amid limestone, and sometimes along streams in moderate to dense shade, where the plants had a less ornamental appearance, having a loose habit with relatively sparse branches and leaves, and rust. In other areas throughout our travels, we observed some mite damage to boxwood in drier, exposed sites, and, often, psyllid, sometimes extensive. We virtually never found evidence of leafminer infestation.

On July 20, we explored two areas near Dion, an important archeological site. At this low elevation (less than 30 m altitude), we made 13 collections from many plants that appeared to have high ornamental potential (Fig. 1). The boxwood grew among *Quercus coccifera* and *Platanus orientalis* in hot, dry, open and rocky areas, and typically they were dense, shapely shrubs. One plant resembled a pale green 'Justin Brouwers', while another a very handsome light blue color (Fig. 2). All of these plants occurred in areas of goat grazing, as did others at many sites that we would later visit. Upon inspecting the *Buxus* and questioning local Greeks including shepherds, we're told that goats "taste (that is nibble) boxwood but do not eat it." Indeed, Edgar

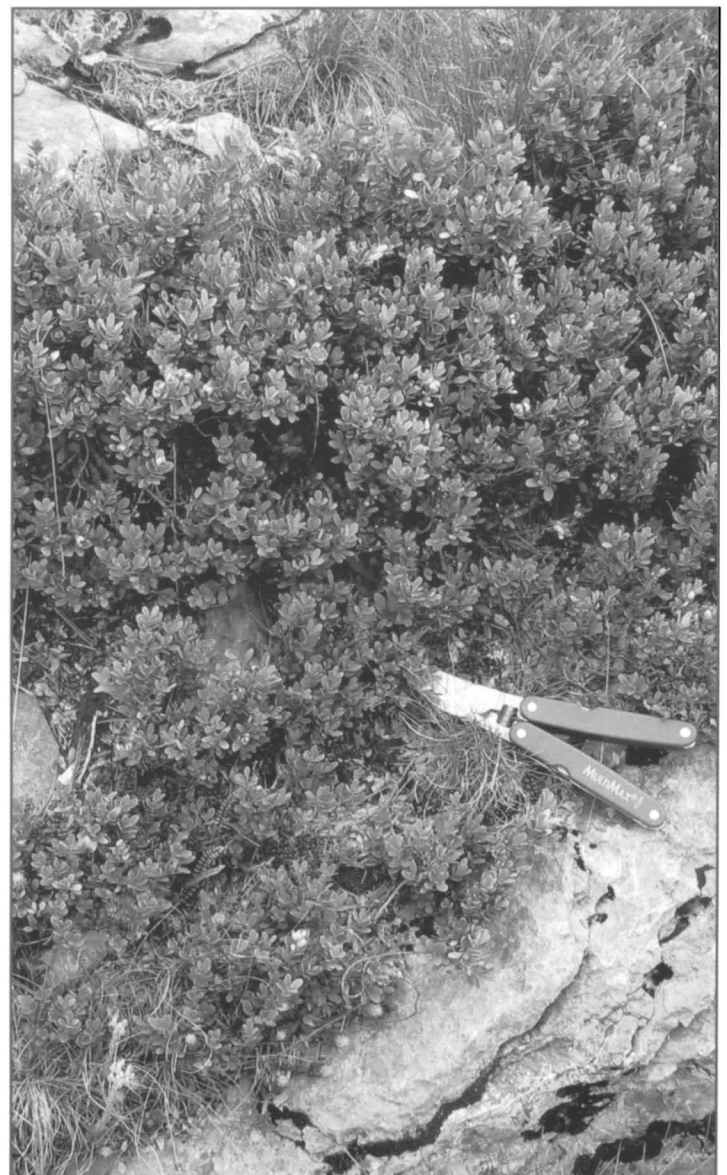


Figure 4: Boxwood at an elevation of approximately 2000 meters on Mt. Olympus grew as a low, prostrate form.

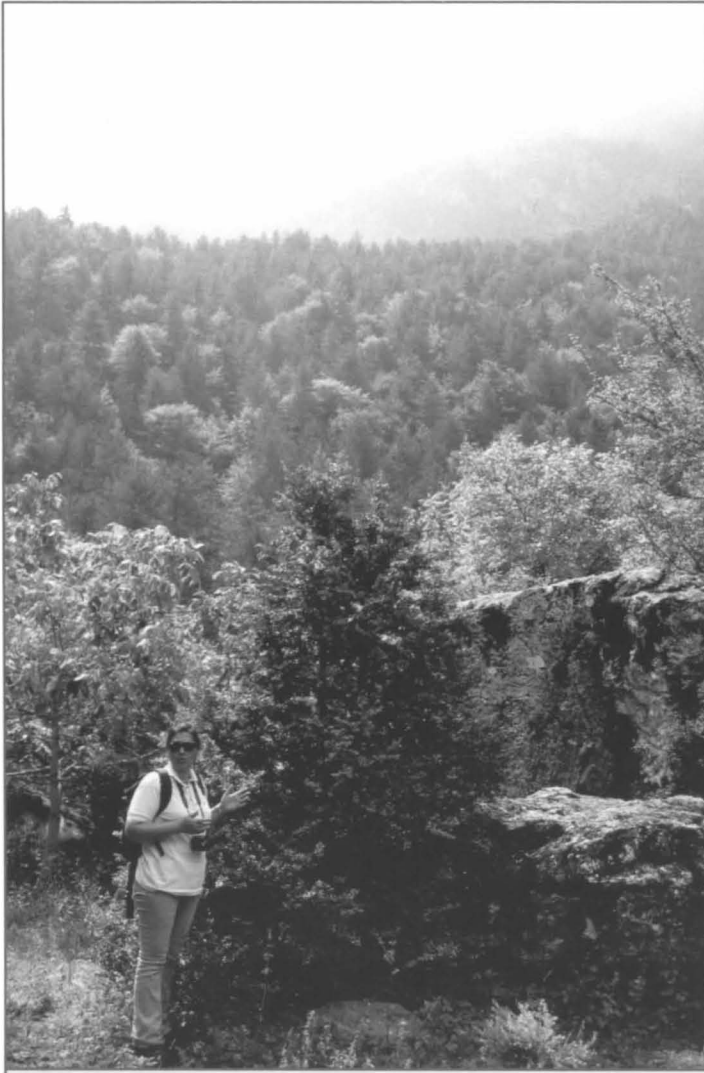


Figure 5: Dr. Eleftheriadou poses next to one of the very few tall, upright boxwood that we would see in Greece.

Anderson had noted the presence of goats amid *Buxus* when he found boxwood near a monastery in Skopje, Macedonia (1). Anderson reminisced:

Goats, which were still everywhere, were the worst offenders and when we came to the acres and acres of boxwood they too were nibbled, sometimes almost down to the ground; seldom or never were they over shoulder high. The bushes had been so heavily grazed it was difficult to tell anything about their growth habit but from the stubs that were left it was easy to see that there was much more variation from bush to bush than in the boxwoods which grew wild (or apparently so) at Box Hill in the south of England.

After seeing some nicely-sculpted *Buxus*, Dr. Anisko hypothesized that the Romans, upon entering Greece, must have seen these goat-pruned forms, and hence stimulated their great

interest in topiary (Fig. 3). Although the ancient Greeks seemingly did not use *Buxus* as an ornamental plant, today it is sometimes procured for decoration in religious and nonreligious celebrations. We were informed that boxwood in Greece is considered to have no special significance, but as it is evergreen and easy to use, it is sometimes taken for arrangements. Over the years, it is likely that some of the *Buxus* habitat was destroyed for use as fields for olive groves and tobacco.

We explored the east side of Mt. Olympus on July 21 and made eight collections. At an altitude of 2000 m, boxwood grew alongside *Juniperus communis* and *Pinus heldreichii* on the windswept slopes as very low (15-20 cm tall) prostrate forms (Fig. 4). In this cold alpine, foggy environment at risk for avalanches, *Buxus* had leaves that were typically ~1 cm long or less, and only a few mm wide. If, in cultivation, these plants grow true to form, then they would be suitable for use in small rock gardens. On the following two days, we explored sites on Mt. Olympus at lower elevation, where we made

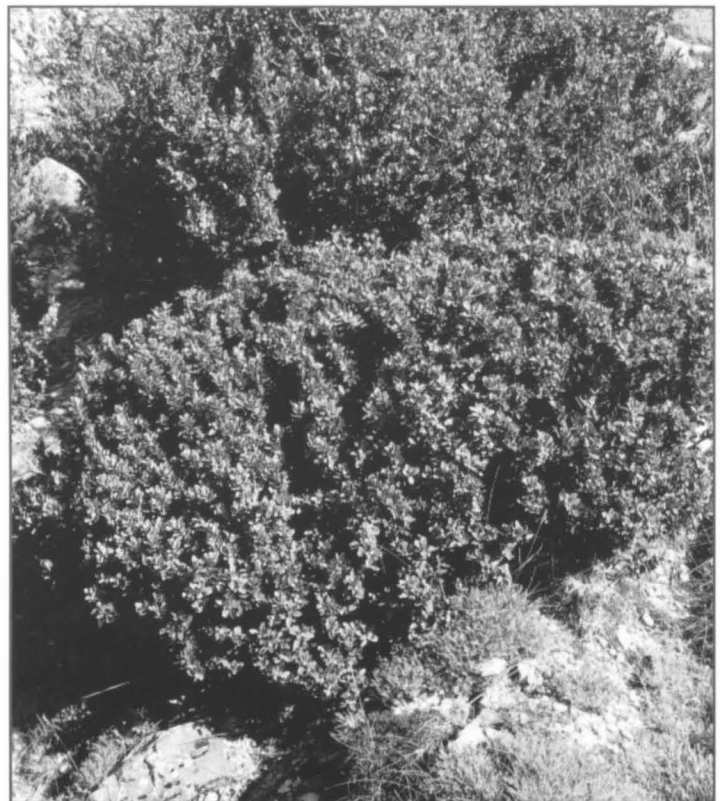


Figure 6: This attractive boxwood was distinct from the many others that covered one slope on the west side of Mt. Olympus. This slope also served as a goat pasture.



Figure 7: Dr. Kalliopi "Poppy" Radoglou relaxes next to boxwood on Mt. Pixaria, located on Evia Island.

four collections from plants growing on a rocky slope and another located at a campsite between Prionia and the famous monastery, Agiou Dionysiou; this latter plant was one of the few in Greece that had a tall, upright habit (Fig. 5). In further explorations, we found that the boxwood of Lower Olympus grew in sparse populations along streams in dense shade; these plants had no desirable characteristics.

On July 24, we explored the west side of Mt. Olympus, making six collections (Fig. 6). In one of these sites near the town of Kokinopilos, boxwood grew in the red soil between goat paths as thickets at ~1300 m along the hot, dry exposed slopes.

We traveled south to the island of Evia on July 27. Here on Mt. Pixaria at ~1000 m, we made 11 collections (Fig. 7). The scenery was perhaps the most spectacular of all environments for *Buxus* in Greece. At the top of the mountain overlooking the Aegean Sea where it was hot and windy, boxwood grew in masses among sheer rock much like a patchwork quilt (Fig. 8). One mass

of plants was clearly distinct from the others, as it resembled, in many aspects, 'Vardar Valley' (Fig. 9). The following day we made three collections of *Buxus* growing along the eastern slope of Mt. Pixaria, directly below where we had been the day before (Fig. 10). We learned from one of the local residents there that the curved base of a boxwood plant is sometimes procured to carve the head of a walking stick, which is used by shepherds to grasp the legs of wayward goats.

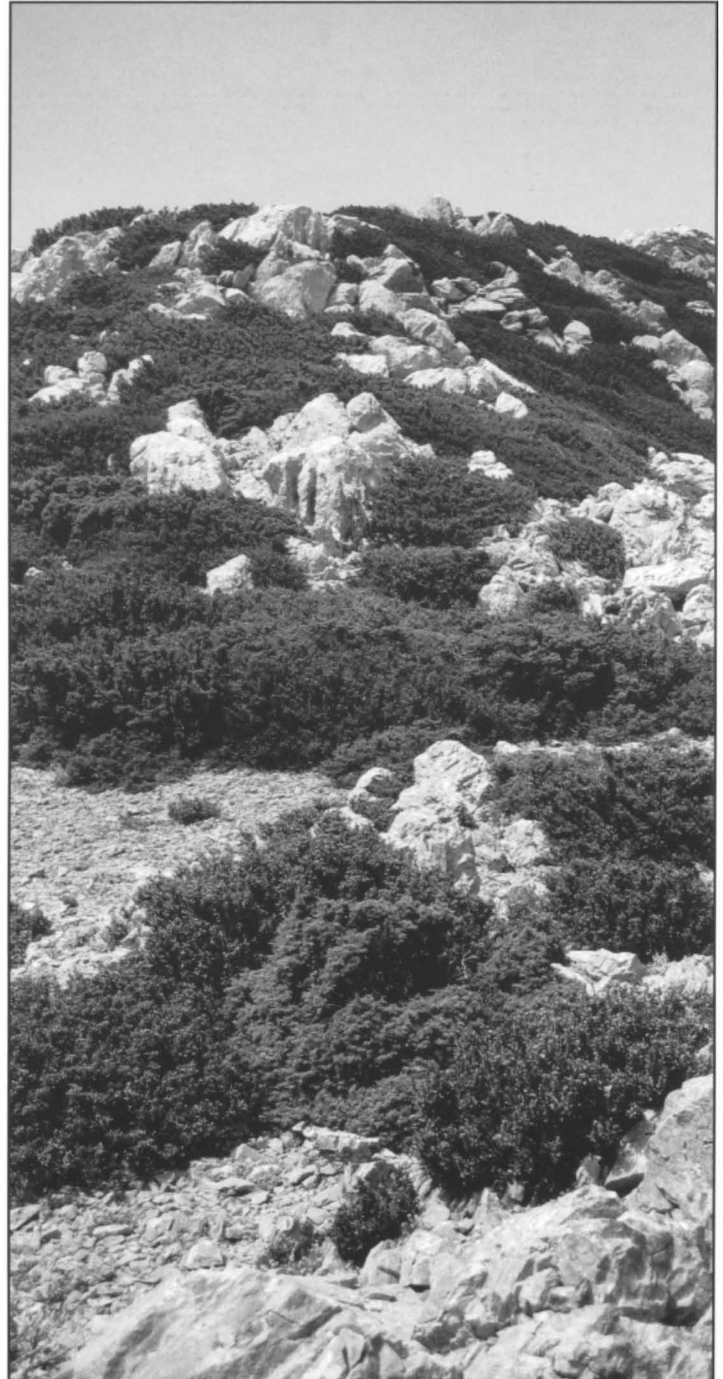


Figure 8: A patchwork of blue-green boxwood grew on the rocks at the summit of Mt. Pixaria.



Figure 9: A mass of blue-green boxwood stood out from the rest on Mt. Pixaria. These have many characteristics of 'Vardar Valley'. The blue water of the Aegean Sea is present in the background.



Figure 10: Masses of boxwood also grew on the eastern slope of Mt. Pixaria.



Figure 12: Masses of boxwood were also observed on a mountain near the town of Metsosvo.

From Volos, Thessaly we traveled on July 29 east to Palia Mitzella where we found boxwood in small populations growing in exposed thickets on limestone surrounded by a *Fagus sylvatica* forest. The boxwood was almost impenetrable and showed little variation; we made three collections. We then headed west to Orthovouni near Kalampaka (near the foot of the site of the famous and colossal solid stone mountains, Meteora), where we made five collections of *Buxus* growing on serpentine soil. One of the collections consisted of a variegated sport emerging

from an otherwise shapely, dense green boxwood. At the monasteries atop Meteora, we saw some boxwood in containers and growing as low hedges in a garden. Several miles from there, in Trikala, we noted a boxwood shaped as the terminus of a Greek column planted in a churchyard in the old Turkish district. The following day we made six collections of *Buxus* growing in red soil with some limestone in a hot, dry, isolated area (Mt. Vourinos) between the towns of Vrahnero and Exarhos.

On August 2-3, we traveled to the tourist town of Metsovo, where we learned that in the past boxwood had been important for the local economy, as it was used by woodworkers, who fashioned it into spoons, heads of walking sticks, and other vernacular carvings for sale to tourists (Fig. 11). We made eight collections of plants from several sites around Metsovo. One site was particularly scenic (1525 m altitude), as boxwood again was found as isolated plants growing in low, creeping masses on exposed rock (Fig 12)(See page 183). In other areas (around the Aoos River reservoir), boxwood grew in a pine forest, where it appeared stressed with chlorotic and relatively sparse leaves.

Our next two days were spent in the scenic mountain area around Prespa Lakes (the town of Psarades), where Greece borders Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Although we made two collections here, most of the *Buxus* had very brown leaves, and had a sickly appearance. We learned that this appearance was common and due to drought, and that the plants would turn green after the rainfall in winter. Several miles away, seven collections were made in lovely pastures near the village of Vronteto (Fig. 13). The environment and the almost arboretum-like appearance of the *Buxus* reminded me of Blandy Experimental Farm. One final collection that day was made from a beautiful (and virtually unique in Greece) dense and manicured hedge bordering a house in the historic town of Kastoria (Fig. 14), felt by many Greeks to be the most beautiful town in the country. Kastoria, centered along a lake surrounded by mountains with many historic dwellings, is known for its fashionable fur industry that has continued since its beginnings in the nineteenth century.



Figure 11: Carved boxwood is typically used as the heads of walking sticks in Greece.



Figure 13: This nicely-shaped boxwood was found in a pasture not too far from the scenic Prespa Lakes.



Figure 14: Boxwood is rarely used as a hedge in Greece, but this one was spotted in the beautiful town of Kastoria.

Our last day of exploration, August 7, was spent in the forests near Edessa. *Buxus* here is appreciated more than anywhere else in Greece. In addition to its use as carved heads of walking sticks, approximately 40 tons of it are harvested annually for use by floral shops in Thessaloniki. We were told that those who harvest the cuttings must pay 50 Euros for each half-ton of cuttings. We also learned that an old custom was to place stems of *Buxus* over newly-baked bread (in the oven for five minutes) to give the bread a special odor. We made seven collections of *Buxus*, two of which had willow-like leaves and another had the largest leaves of any boxwood that we had seen on our expedition (bean-shaped leaves, perhaps 3 cm x 3 cm).

Our final tally for boxwood collection was cuttings from 92 plants and three of seeds (Table 1, provided by Dr. Anisko). This large number reflects the great diversity of *B. sempervirens* in Greece. It is obvious that many of these native Balkan plants have great ornamental potential, and with this in mind, Longwood Gardens, Woodland Nursery, and the American Boxwood

Society entered into agreements with the Forest Research Institute-National Agricultural Research Foundation regarding the supply of living plant material for non-commercial purposes. The author signed a letter on behalf of the ABS with Dr. Radoglou on August 7, 2005 accepting the conditions of the agreement (Table 2).

The great success of our expedition occurred because of the preparation and assistance of Dr. Radoglou and her colleagues. We thank them for their professional guidance and for exposing us to Greek history, culture, hospitality, and cuisine.

Reference

(1) Anderson, Edgar. 1963. "Collecting Boxwood in the Balkans." *The Boxwood Bulletin* 2(3): 26.

All photographs provided by Dr. Henry Frierson.

TABLE 1
Boxwood Collected in Greece 2005

NG#	Collection	Name	Area	Coordinates	Date	Notes	Longwood
001	Seed	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.08616 E22.48217	7/19	Plants growing along a road with <i>Pinus nigra</i> , all seed to Woodland Nursery	
002	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.08630 E22.48151	7/19	Dark green leaves, medium size, extremely strongly cupped leaves, habit open, in shade, not defined	27
003	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.08629 E22.48156	7/19	About 60 cm tall, shrubby, leaves larger than most, glaucous, branches pointing up, full and dense	37
004	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07294 E22.46309	7/19	Leaves bluish, strongly glaucous, narrow, upright, shrub 80 cm tall, fairly dense	27
005	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07299 E22.46312	7/19	Large leaf, upright shrub, slightly cupped, pointed tip, oval leaf, dark green, glossy	19
006	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07298 E22.46315	7/19	Upright, wide growth, leaf medium size, oblong, glaucous, blue color, upright plant, dense, 1.2 m tall	6
007	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07300 E22.46313	7/19	About 1.2 m tall, very blue, leaf narrow, dense, growth form unknown, bluer than No. 6, exceptional blue color	24
008	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07225 E22.46058	7/19	Leaves very narrow, long, widely spaced, branches more less horizontal, open, airy, loose, tips pendulous, medium green, dull	30
009	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07228 E22.46136	7/19	Very small leaf, folded along midvein, open habit, exfoliating bark	
010	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.07231 E22.46148	7/19	Conical, 3 m high, full, dense habit, upright, leaves medium to large size, large notch at the tip, glaucous, in full sun	22
011	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Litochoro	N40.08287 E22.47903	7/19	Large narrow leaf, glaucous, straight trunk, branched above 60 cm, margin wavy, 1.5 m tall	25
012	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16291 E22.48813	7/20	Low growing, compact, 40 cm tall, dense, leaves medium size, bluish, near a village	30
013	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16270 E22.48820	7/20	About 50 cm tall, mounded, light green, narrow, small leaves, dense, 'Justin Brouwers'-like	34
014	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16229 E22.48857	7/20	About 1.5 m tall, rounded habit, leaves large, glaucous, dense, new growth wavy	24
015	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16289 E22.48753	7/20	Shrubby, 1.2 m tall, oval, upright, dense, twigs upright, leaves strong blue, pointed, medium size, beautiful, best yet	36
016	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16307 E22.48810	7/20	Low spreading form, small, narrow, blue leaves, 50 cm tall, 70 cm wide, grazed by goats	12
017	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16308 E22.48814	7/20	About 60 cm tall, 1.2 m wide, long, narrow leaves, light green, signs of grazing, leaves small	16
018	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16402 E22.48034	7/20	Fastigiate, 3 m tall, all branches upright, leaves narrow, small to medium, somewhat bluish	40
019	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16383 E22.48043	7/20	Leaves medium to large, oval, slightly glaucous, plant habit regular, round 1.5 m x 1.5 m, dense, neat, clean outline, as if pruned	30
020	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16367 E22.47872	7/20	About 1.5 m x 1.5 m wide, dense, upright stems, medium green, elongate leaves, slightly glaucous, attractive shape	24
021	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Olympus, Dion	N40.16387 E22.47839	7/20	Attractive form, 90 cm wide, 40 cm tall, typical foliage, no sign of grazing, slightly chlorotic	19

022	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Dion	N40.18967 E22.44827	7/20	Low, spreading, 40 cm tall, 1 m wide, medium green, medium size, dense, in dry river bed	27
023	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Dion	N40.18965 E22.44919	7/20	Low spreading, 40 cm tall, 1.2 m wide, light green, small, dense leaves, signs of grazing, in dry river bed	32
024	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Dion	N40.19071 E22.44753	7/20	Low, 40 cm tall, 1 m wide, dense, typical leaf, light green, oblong, slightly glaucous	
025	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08341 E22.37235	7/21	Prostrate, 30-40 cm tall, 2.5 m wide, leaves small, oblong, medium green, more regular habit than most in this population at 2000 m	18
026	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08368 E22.37118	7/21	Very low, spreading, 20 cm tall, 1.5 m wide, under <i>Pinus heldreichii</i> , leaves small, bluish	20
027	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08381 E22.37117	7/21	About 1.5 m wide, 45 cm tall, upright stems, small, oval leaves, medium green	17
028	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08360 E22.37136	7/21	Very small leaves, less than 1 cm long, plant 20 cm tall, creeping, medium green, smallest leaf yet, new growth 1.5 cm long	14
029	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08263 E22.37332	7/21	Prostrate, upright branching, 30-40 cm tall, smaller leaves, slightly glaucous	13
030	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08212 E22.37436	7/21	Much smaller, slimmer foliage than other in this area, light green, open habit, 35 cm tall, spreading habit	24
031	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08249 E22.37467	7/21	Prostrate, 40-50 cm tall, leaves small, very narrow, elongate, bluish	
032	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Prionia	N40.08291 E22.37513	7/21	Very dwarf, 15 cm tall, 50 cm wide, very dense, medium green, leaves very small, denser than others	16
033	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kinalon Monastery	N40.02095 E22.47225	7/22	Very open habit, airy, little branching, long overhanging stems, plant spreading, 80 cm tall, 3 m wide, non-boxwood like habit, leaves large somewhat glaucous, lower branches rooting	32
034	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kinalon Monastery	N40.02534 E22.48033	7/22	Large blue leaves, dense upright branches, top broken off by falling rocks, overall full rounded habit	
035	Seeds	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kinalon Monastery	N40.02535 E22.48035	7/22	Population along the road, exposed hillside, both sides of the road, all seeds to Woodland Nursery	11
036	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Agiou Dionisiou	N40.09173 E22.42185	7/23	Upright, heavy fruiting, Christmas-tree-like habit, 4 m high, in full sun, at a campsite along the river	
037	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kokinopilos	N40.09987 E22.25405	7/24	Dwarf, 30 cm by 50 cm, leaves small, medium green and not yellow green like many in this exposed location, little psyllid damage unlike most plants here, dense possible goat grazing, below church on exposed rock cliff above the village	
038	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kokinopilos	N40.10389 E22.25720	7/24	Compact, psyllid free, leaves small, medium green, not as dense as NG-37, 50 cm by 100 cm	
039	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kokinopilos	N40.10357 E22.25485	7/24	Prostrate, long stems, large leaves, psyllid present, tips of the branches turned up	
040	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kokinopilos	N40.10015 E22.25179	7/24	About 1.3 m wide by 30 cm tall, dense growth, very erect stems, many leaves on stems, greener than most, much less psyllid than most in this site, leaves oval with a slight notch	
041	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kokinopilos	N40.10014 E22.25180	7/24	Broadly conical 1.5 m by 1.5 m, tapering to a point, leaves blue green, stems thick, vertical, leaves blunt	
042	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt.Olympus, Kokinopilos	N40.01740 E22.31572	7/24	Medium green, darker than others, curved downward, medium size, whole plant has glossy appearance, habit unknown, plant was cut back	

043	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71724 E23.63436	7/27	On Mount Pixaria, 1.2 m tall and 2 m wide, dense, compact, regular oval habit, fuller than others, no grazing, medium green leaves, small to medium, dense, open, exposed, on a windswept rock	
044	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71852 E23.63438	7/27	Low spreading, long stems, large leaves, slightly glaucous, on a rocky slope, 30 cm tall, 3-4 m wide, branches prostrate, no psyllid, partial shade	
045	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71706 E23.63905	7/27	About 2.5 m tall, round, dense, dark green, large but full, healthy foliage, no psyllid	
046	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71674 E23.63931	7/27	Low, spreading, prostrate, hugging rock, exposed, full sun, medium to light green, leaves rounded, psyllid free, 40 cm tall, 1.5 m wide, dense, soft appearance	
047	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71741 E23.64011	7/27	Very dwarf, 20 cm wide by 5 cm tall, very dense, very small leaf, greener than most, leaf shape typical	
048	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71737 E23.64008	7/27	About 1.5 m wide, 45 cm tall, dense, little psyllid, medium green, typical leaf, broad, prostrate, flat top	
049	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71741 E23.64009	7/27	About 1.2 m wide, 60 cm tall, slightly open, small, elongated, medium green leaf, slightly upright, unique foliage, very little psyllid	
050	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.72045 E23.63996	7/27	Dwarf, 20 cm tall, 80 cm wide, Aegean slopes of Mount Pixaria, leaves large, glaucous, pointed, almost prickly, some psyllid, super dense, cushion plant	
051	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.72086 E23.63970	7/27	Giant plant, 2 m tall, 20 m wide, leaves exceptionally dark green and glaucous, leaves large rounded, dense plant, leaves resemble euphorbia in its appearance	
052	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.72082 E23.63961	7/27	Dwarf, 50 cm tall, 2 m wide, leaves small, very dense, dark green, with a notch, held upright, near the giant plant NG-51, no psyllid, stiff stems	
053	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, south side	N38.71794 E23.63717	7/27	Very low, dense, 25 cm high, 60 cm wide, prostrate, flat top, short stems with very short internodes, dense, small elongated leaves, medium green, low and dense	
054	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, north side	N38.72316 E23.68317	7/28	Strong blue foliage, psyllid free, very clean, leaves tapering to a blunt tip, medium size, plant 40 cm tall by 1 m wide, dense, spreading, near goat path	
055	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, north side	N38.72305 E23.68310	7/28	Very small plant and leaves, upright rounded, like 'Suffruticosa', medium green, little psyllid, dense	
056	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Evia Island, Mt. Pixaria, north side	N38.72331 E23.68300	7/28	Strongly blue, waxy, changing to dark green, nice two-tone effect, branches spreading, leaves rounded, soft texture, leaves medium size, young plant, 20 cm by 40 cm	
057	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Volos, Palia Mitzella	N39.49377 E23.02938	7/29	Darker green, denser, small elongated leaves, growing out of a crack in the rock, limbs going up and down in every direction, prostrate, tips turned up	
058	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Volos, Palia Mitzella	N39.49655 E23.03272	7/29	On the top of limestone outcrop. Low spreading, but branchlets and leaves upright, small leaves, youngest glaucous, older yellow green two tone, 50 cm tall 1.5 m wide, no grazing	
059	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Volos, Palia Mitzella	N39.49653 E23.03288	7/29	Top of a limestone mound, fully exposed, low spreading like No. 58, but larger plant, leaves also small and glaucous like NG-58 but not as stiffly upright, dense branching, soft texture, prostrate	
060	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Kalampaka, Trigona	N39.76276 E21.47365	7/30	Variiegated, not regular, yellow, more yellow than green especially toward the tip, green near the main vein, plant dense, 1.5 m tall, mounded,	

061	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Kalampaka, Trigona	N39.76469 E21.47276	7/30	Large, rounded, upright, branches upright, very dense, regular outline, 3 m tall by 2 m wide, no browsing, leaves medium size and color, rather narrow and elongated, scale but no psyllid	
062	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Kalampaka, Trigona	N39.76288 E21.47368	7/30	Tight, upright, very dense, large plant, 2.5 m tall, 2 m wide, in thickets with other boxwood, strong blue, medium to large leaves, stems upright, scale, no psyllid	
063	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Kalampaka, Trigona	N39.76215 E21.47436	7/30	Dense, full, rounded, no browsing, blue, large leaves, clean no scale, no psyllid, 2 m by 2 m, stems mostly upright but not as much as NG-62	
064	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Kalampaka, Trigona	N39.76274 E21.47335	7/30	About 2 m high, 1 m wide, fastigiate, dark green, more upright, dense, elongate leaves, tapering to a point, branches upright, stood out from a distance, leaves medium size	
065	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Vourinos	N40.18072 E21.60156	8/1	Small plant, 30 cm wide by 15 cm high, dense growth, leaves greener than others, mite damage, less psyllid than most, very thick leaves, medium green, typical shape, small leaves, stood out because of its density, form, and color; full sun, very dry	12
066	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Vourinos	N40.17174 E21.61521	8/1	Blue, narrow pointed leaves, medium, very clean, dense, no pests or disease, upright branching, 1.2 m tall, regular oval habit, in a small ravine	72
067	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Vourinos	N40.17176 E21.61524	8/1	Perfect egg-shape outline, dense, upright, blue, oval leaves dense, rounded tip, full, dense, 1.5 m tall, in ravine	
068	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Vourinos	N40.17176 E21.61524	8/1	Golden boxwood, spreading, 50 cm tall,	12
069	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Vourinos	N40.17175 E21.61523	8/1	Narrow, upright column, 1.5 m, 45 cm wide, like 'Rotundifolia', dark green leaves, larger than typical, slightly rounded, thick, heavy stems, lots of psyllid	10
070	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Mt. Vourinos	N40.17175 E21.61522	8/1	Broad spreading plant, 1.8 m wide, 90 cm tall in the center, long willowy stems, cascading over rock, upper arching gracefully, medium green typical leaves, little longer than typical, some psyllid and scale	27
071	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Road to Trigona	N39.79204 E21.20507	8/2	Prostrate, large, blue leaves, long horizontal branches, 30 cm tall	37
072	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Road to Trigona	N39.79200 E21.20506	8/2	Blue green mass of one plant, stood out because of the color, small leaves, elongated, 6 m wide by 1.8 m tall, some minor psyllid, fair amount of rust	23
073	Seeds	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Road to Trigona	N39.79227 E21.22765	8/2	Whole population prostrate, very little seed production, all seed from one plant, capsules very small, plant typical for this population, all seeds to Woodland Nursery	
074	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Aooos Reservoir	N39.84534 E21.10714	8/2	Very dark green, unlike other yellow green plants in this population on the shore of a man-made lake, glaucous dense, medium size leaves, 1.5 m tall, habit undetermined, in thickets of other boxwood	20
075	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Aooos Reservoir	N39.84539 E21.10704	8/2	Bright yellow green, but healthy and not sickly yellow like others in this population on lake shore, no psyllid, very clean, dense, 60 cm tall, habit undetermined because plant broken apart, near a goat path	27
076	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Vovoussa	N39.92404 E21.05327	8/3	Dwarf medium dense, large leaves, 30 cm tall, 40-50 cm wide, full sun, very dry site, stems upright, blue gray cast to the leaves, shape typical, elongated, much less stressed than other plants in this location	9
077	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Vovoussa	N39.92406 E21.05331	8/3	Edge of a thicket, low, creeping, tips turned up, leaves large, glaucous, appear to have slightly purple tinge in full sun, very dry site	29
078	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Metsovo, Vovoussa	N39.96500 E21.21266	8/3	Darker green, slightly weeping, arching gracefully, 1.2 m tall, leaves slightly elongated, blunt	22
079	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.83043 E21.02344	8/5	The bluest yet, leaves large rounded, long stem, plant damaged therefore creeping along the road, 40 cm tall, loose, open, very clean	19
080	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.83039 E21.02340	8/5	Dark blue, upright, denser than NG-79, plant severely damaged from road construction, leaves medium to large, oval	19

081	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.82867 E21.01897	8/6	About 60 cm high and wide, green with slight shade of blue among brown and yellow plants, moderate growth rate, leaves small, typical shape	25
082	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.82867 E21.01895	8/6	Good color, medium green, stood out in this population, upright growth habit, multibranched, leaves typical size and shape, little pycnidia, making conical form but has been broken	13
083	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.75250 E21.00899	8/6	Very dense, full, 2 m high and wide, leaves large, bluish, beyond the reach of goats, dark appearance from a distance, excellent oval habit	24
084	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.75250 E21.00899	8/6	Dense, bold, round, strong blue, large leaves, plant 2 m tall, side browsed to about 60 cm from ground, full, dense, but habit unknown, because plant in a thicket	28
085	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.75250 E21.00898	8/6	Prostrate, 60 cm tall, 3 m wide, loose, long stems, leaves large, green to slightly glaucous, bold, unique habit	36
086	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.75253 E21.00901	8/6	About 1.2 m tall by 90 cm wide, dense growth, medium green leaves with slight blue tint, leaves elongate with a slight notch to the tip, 'Suffruticosa'-like growth habit	13
087	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.75253 E21.00900	8/6	Narrow, fastigiate, 2 m high, 45 cm wide, leaves medium green typical size, not dense, open, heavily infested with scale, which may explain it not being dense	13
088	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Lake Prespa, Psarades	N40.51518 E21.27233	8/6	Hedge, 50 year old, 90 cm wide, 120 cm tall, trimmed annually, very dark green leaves, slightly smaller and more pointed than 'Suffruticosa', slightly blue on new growth, very attractive hedge, no insects, at an old house in city of Kastoria, on Orestiadon	30
089	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.75644 E21.99345	8/7	Upright plant, 3 m tall, 1.5 m wide, rangy, probably cut for greens, new growth 30 cm long, huge leaves, 3 cm long, many notched, nice medium green color, clean, free of pests	18
090	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.75648 E21.99334	8/7	3 vertical main trunks, 2.4 m tall, 60 cm wide, medium green leaves typical size and shape, fairly dense	18
091	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.75660 E21.99333	8/7	Dense mound, 1.5 m tall, 2.4 m wide, medium green color, large elongated leaf tapered, nice, clean plant	11
092	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.74568 E21.98210	8/7	Willow-leaved, 2.5 cm long, 5 mm wide, medium to dark green, willowy stems, severely cut plant, habit unknown	36
093	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.74864 E21.98455	8/7	Upright habit, 4 trunks, 3 m tall, 1.2 m wide, mature leaves dark green, extra large leaves, tapered, no notch, very healthy, moderate density	24
094	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.74864 E21.98455	8/7	Willow-like leaf, larger and longer than previous, very dark green and glossy, habit unknown	20
095	Cuttings	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Edessa	N40.74864 E21.98455	8/7	Dwarf, 30 cm tall, 60 cm wide, spilling over rock, dense, short stems, leaves medium green, dull typical shape, near road, perhaps goat grazing	12

TABLE 2

AGREEMENT ON THE SUPPLY OF LIVING PLANT MATERIAL* FOR
NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES BETWEEN FRI-NAGREF AND
AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Against the background of the provisions and decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992 (CBD) and in particular those on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, the FRI-NAGREF is dedicated to promoting the conservation, sustainable use, and research of biological diversity. The FRI-NAGREF therefore expects its partners in acquiring, maintaining, and transferring plant material to always act in accordance with the CBD.

The responsibility for legal handling of the plant material passes on to the recipient upon receipt of the material. The requested plant material will be supplied to the recipient only on the following conditions:

The plant material supplied under this agreement will explicitly remain the property of Greece. The representatives of American Boxwood Society explicitly pledge that they will in no way violate this agreement and will inform FRI-NAGREF of any other use of the supplied plant material and request FRI-NAGREF's consent prior to such other use. This consent will include specification of the mutually agreed terms under which use will be allowed. These conditions reflect the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to which the Greek government is bound by signature.

Based on this agreement, the plant material is supplied only for non-commercial use such as scientific study and educational purposes as well as environmental protection. Should the recipient at a later date intend a commercial use or a transfer for commercial use, the country of origin's prior informed consent (PIC) must be

obtained in writing before the material is used or transferred. The recipient is responsible for ensuring an equitable sharing of benefits. On receiving the plant material, the recipient endeavors to document the received plant material, its origin (Greece, "donor" of the plant material, year of collection) as well as the acquisition and transfer conditions in a comprehensible manner.

In the event that scientific publications are produced based on the supplied plant material, the recipient is obliged to indicate the origin of the material (the supplying and country of origin) and to send these publications to the country of origin without request.

On request, the garden will forward relevant information on the transfer of the plant material to the body charged with implementing the CBD**.

The recipient may transfer the received plant material to third parties only under these terms and conditions and must document the transfer in suitable manner (e.g., by using the documentation form).

* According to the CBD "genetic resource" means genetic material of actual or potential value. This definition covers both living and not living material.

** Ideally, the national focal point in the garden's home country

2006 Historic Garden Week Highlights Beautiful Boxwood Gardens

By Suzanne Munson,
Executive Director,
Historic Garden Week in Virginia

From Colonial allées to Charles Gillette terraces, Historic Garden Week in Virginia tours this year will provide a panorama of beautiful boxwood landscapes. The annual event opens more than 250 private gardens and houses and historic landmarks to the public between April 22 and April 29, 2006. Nearly three dozen separate tours will be held on different days of the week from the Alleghenies to the Atlantic. Tours are sponsored by member clubs of The Garden Club of Virginia, with proceeds benefiting the restoration of historic gardens and grounds throughout the Commonwealth.

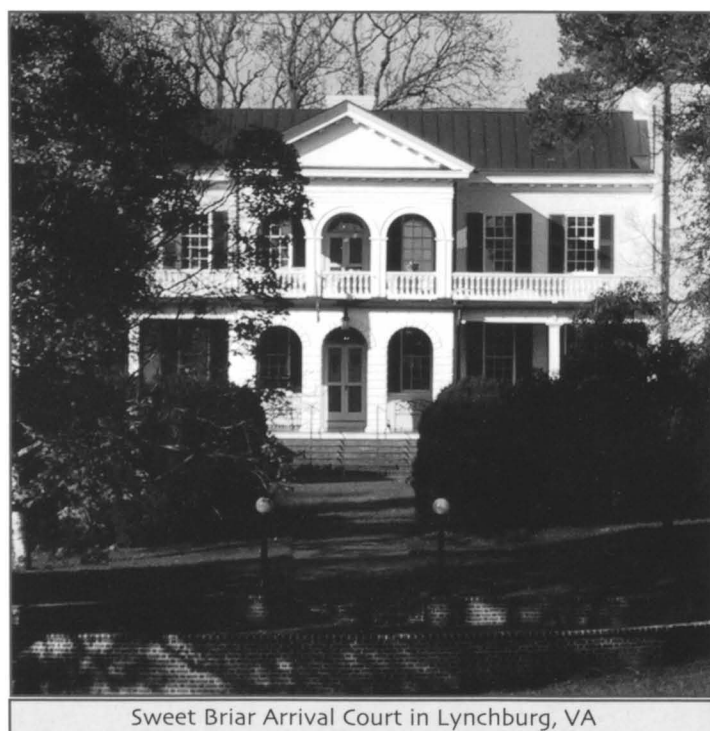
Mature gardens designed by Charles F. Gillette, Charles J. Stick, Thomas Church and other talented landscape architects will be featured on Richmond's April 25 tour in the Highland Road area. Richmond's April 27 tour leads visitors farther west along River Road to elegant newer properties, including a spectacular nine-acre landscape still under expansion. The gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Alan T. Lingerfelt reflect the design and sophistication of fine European estates. Brick walks, with ribbon inlay pattern reminiscent of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., lead through formal, cutting and rose gardens, which represent only part of this hidden gem in the suburbs.

Those interested in historic antebellum properties with old boxwood plantings will want to visit such tours as those in Orange County (April 22), Clarke County (near Winchester, April 22-23), Upperville (Fauquier-Loudoun Garden Club tour, April 23-24), the Northern Neck (Richmond County, April 26), the Middle Peninsula (King William County, April 28), Augusta County (Staunton area, April 29) and the Lexington area (April 29). The beautiful, historic grounds of Brandon Plantation, on the

banks of the James River just above Jamestown, will be open on April 28 and 29.

A number of tour organizers will enhance their programs with special events this year. The April 22 event in Portsmouth falls on Earth Day, and tour planners will celebrate the day by showcasing the Hoffer Creek Nature Preserve, in addition to lovely private homes and gardens along the Elizabeth River. Activities include discussions of native plants for landscaping, plants that attract butterflies and birds, deer-resistant plants, water plants and efforts to revitalize the Elizabeth River.

Discussions of Thomas Jefferson's love of horticulture will be held at Monticello during Historic Garden Week on April 25 and 27, and guided tours of the Jefferson-designed Pavilion Homes and Gardens will be offered on the grounds of the University of Virginia on April 25. Three of the four rural properties open for the April 29 tour in the Staunton-Augusta County area have conservation easements, and tour organizers will provide information from the Valley Conservation Council about the importance of preservation easements in maintaining the integrity of the region's beautiful, unspoiled countryside.



Sweet Briar Arrival Court in Lynchburg, VA

Many of the more than three dozen Garden Club of Virginia historic restoration projects, funded by Historic Garden Week tours, contain mature boxwood plantings of interest. One of the most recent projects involved landscaping the arrival court of Sweet Briar House at Sweet Briar College in Amherst, Virginia. Giant American boxwood dominating the Sweet Briar House grounds are impressive and historically important, many of them more than 150 years old. For years, these notable boxwood have been recognized as the "crown jewels" of the campus. The Garden Club of Virginia's restoration program opened views of the mountains obscured by overgrown shrubbery, re-established an arboretum with interesting native and exotic trees, and created outdoor spaces suitable for current uses. The Sweet Briar House and grounds will be open free of charge on April 25 as part of the Historic Garden Week tour of private homes and gardens in the Lynchburg area.



This and previous two photos provided by Sweet Briar College. Impressive American boxwood, many of them more than 150 years old, are the "crown jewels" of the arrival court at Sweet Briar College in Amherst Virginia. It is part of Garden Week in Lynchburg on April 25.



Sweet Briar Arrival Court

A list of all Garden Club of Virginia restoration sites, by region, can be accessed on The Garden Club of Virginia website: www.GCVirginia.org. For complete information about Historic Garden Week in Virginia, please visit www.VAGardenweek.org. View the Tour Highlights section, then access guidebook copy for each event by tour name on the Schedule page. Guidebooks may be obtained by mailing a \$5 donation to Historic Garden Week, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Please join us for one or more of our beautiful tours this April!



Built in 1904 by a Civil War veteran, this Victorian house is surrounded by lovely garden rooms delineated by boxwood. This house will be open on the April 25 tour in the Falls Church and Arlington areas sponsored by the Garden Club of Fairfax.

The Boxwood at Dawes: Best Forms over the Last Decade

Rich Larson, Dawes Arboretum,
Newark, Ohio

I completed my previous article on boxwood (*Buxus* spp.), "Introducing the Boxwood Collection at The Dawes Arboretum" (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, October 2005, Vol. 45, No. 2, pg. 119), by noting that they are easy to cultivate, adaptable to a wide range of soil types, and highly resistant to diseases and pests including deer and rabbits. These are the unifying features of this genus. In this current and forthcoming article I will proceed from the general to the specific. In doing so, I shall be correcting a common misconception held by many gardeners, professionals and lay persons alike: all boxwood appear the same and are, in a sense, created equal. In fact, significant variation exists among various boxwood in their form, growth rate, cold hardiness, and foliar qualities such as variegation and texture.

For the purposes of forthcoming articles and to facilitate my evaluation of our extensive collection at The Dawes Arboretum, I have divided our boxwood according to form: (I) dwarf and compact, (II) intermediate and spreading, and (III) broadly conical to upright. In addition, I will mention a few variants that remain unique to these categories because of their unusual habit or phenotype. I will focus mostly on cultivars that have performed well in our collections over several years, especially those possessing good winter hardiness, above-average foliar qualities, and superior branching density. This article focuses on dwarf and compact forms.

It must be stressed that our boxwood collection is a highly dynamic one and continues to grow in diversity. As I become acquainted with new boxwood or have the fortunate experience to examine the many older but lesser-known forms, it is likely that the content of forthcoming articles will change markedly.



Rich Larson, nursery manager, propagator, curator of holly, witchazel and azalea collections and woody plant trials manager at Dawes Arboretum. Rich is a featured speaker at the Memphis Annual Symposium.

Part I. Dwarf and Compact Forms

I consider the dwarf and compact forms of boxwood to be the most exciting group. They are useful in rock gardens, and we have recently employed them in our dwarf conifer collection to provide color and textural contrast. The dwarfs are also among the hardiest of all boxwood, showing less propensity for early shoot growth or late season growth spurts, both of which subject the plant to potential cold temperature damage. As a result, a great many of these dwarfs can be grown quite successfully in the colder regions of the Midwest where any reliable broadleaf evergreen is a most welcome addition.

Most dwarf boxwood emanate from the significant diversity that exists among native populations of Japanese littleleaf boxwood (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*), littleleaf boxwood (*B. microphylla*), and Korean boxwood (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*). Such heterogeneity has been well noted by plant collectors such as Dr. John Creech, whose article "Japanese, Korean and Yugoslavian Boxwood are Hardy Alternatives to Other Evergreens" highlights both the durability and significant morphological variation of Japanese littleleaf boxwood.

Unfortunately, in my experience many dwarf types show some tendency toward winter discoloration in Ohio unless protected from winter winds and sun. In the case of Japanese littleleaf

boxwood, a more tender species than its Korean counterpart, this discoloration is generally manifested by unsightly yellowing or browning of branch tips. With the Korean boxwood, by contrast, the concentration of late season anthocyanin pigments is common in many cultivars, resulting in a bronze to bronze-purple winter color.

Some Dwarf and Compact Boxwood of Distinction

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Bob' (syn. *Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana* 'Bob'), **Sweet 'n Low™ Korean boxwood**. The first dwarf selection is also likely to be the least known in the trade. In 1993, the Arboretum received four selections of Korean boxwood from Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Three of these selections, 'Bob', 'Herb's Dark Green' and 'Herb's Special', mature as compact rounded shrubs with 'Bob' being the slower and most compact of the group. The fourth, 'Russ' grows to be an attractive but not exceptional upright form to around 5' (1.5 m).



Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Bob', Sweet 'n Low™ Korean boxwood (syn. *Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana* 'Bob'). A tight compact form originating from a seedling selected by the late Herb Trautman of Franksville, WI.

All four of these boxwood were selected from open-pollinated seedlings grown by the late plantsman Herb Trautman of Trautman Nurseries in Franksville, Wisconsin.

In 2003, Johnson's Nursery trademarked 'Bob' under the name 'Sweet 'n Low™'. Mike Yanny, plant propagator, has described the plant as a beautiful hardy dwarf selection that maintains a good light-green winter color and grows only 2' tall by 3' wide (0.6 m x 0.91 m) over 25 years.

We planted our specimen in 1996, and it presently stands 2 1/3' tall by 3 1/2' wide (0.72 m tall x 1.05 m). The foliage exhibits a flat yellow-green color typical of the species (Royal Horticultural Society colour chart 146a), and leaves measure 1/4"-1/8" long (6-16 mm) by 3/16"-5/16" wide (4-8 mm) with an oval-to-elliptical shape.

'Bob' is a highly floriferous cultivar with numerous buds concentrated in the leaf axils of first- and second-year wood. The potential of unwanted seedlings growing around its base is therefore high, but to date I have not seen evidence of much germination in our collection.

It is likely that 'Bob' will ultimately grow higher and wider in Ohio than it does in Wisconsin, but I still rate this form superior to the species for its dense, low-growing stature and for maintaining a desirable winter color.

Buxus microphylla 'Compacta' (syn. *Buxus microphylla* 'Kingsville Dwarf'), **Kingsville Dwarf littleleaf boxwood**. This boxwood is perhaps the best known of William Appleby's selections that originated as seedlings in 1912, but it did not attain widespread recognition until 1948 when Henry Hohman registered it under the name 'Compacta'. The widely-used name 'Kingsville Dwarf' refers to The Kingsville Nursery in Maryland which was owned and operated by Henry Hohman.

Although the term "micro-dwarf" has often been employed to categorize especially petite conifers, it seems a perfectly suitable descriptor for some of our most dwarf boxwood which grow less than 1" (2.54 cm) a year. 'Compacta' is clearly the prototype for this group of highly diminutive boxwood that includes varieties such as 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' and 'Morris Midget'. 'Compacta' is rated to grow no higher than 15" high (38 cm) over a 25-year period.



Buxus microphylla 'Compacta' (syn. *Buxus microphylla* 'Kingsville Dwarf') Kingswood Dwarf littleleaf boxwood. An extremely slow-growing dwarf form originating from the old Kingsville Nursery in Maryland.

We accessioned this plant in 1999 as cuttings received from Wavecrest Nursery in Holland, Michigan. In the fall of 2002, we planted 'Compacta' at Holly Hill where it now stands 13" tall x 16" wide (0.34 m x 0.4 m).

'Compacta' forms a densely-mounded shrub with fine-textured stems and clustered foliage. Leaves range in size from 7/16"-5/8" long (11-17 mm) by 3/16"-5/16" wide (58 mm), taking on an oval-to-lance shape. Inner foliage is glossy yellow-green in winter (RHS 139a) while tips take on a light bronze to yellow-green tint in exposed sites.

Our specimen of 'Compacta' is sited in full sun with little protection from winter winds; in the last three years I have observed it to be free of any stem dieback or winter defoliation. However, it has not had a strong winter appeal in its present site and seems likely winter discoloration will be a consistent problem with 'Compacta' in central Ohio unless plants are protected by shade or snow cover.

Buxus microphylla 'Grace Hendrick Phillips', Grace Hendrick Phillips littleleaf boxwood. A Henry Hohman introduction occurring as a branch sport off *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' was registered by Dr. Henry Skinner in 1967. The history of its name is well documented in Batdorf's *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* and references Mrs. Phillips, the wife of Admiral Neil Phillips, a long-time friend of Hohman's and former President of the American Boxwood Society.



Buxus microphylla 'Grace Hendrick Phillips'. A low-growing groundcover form that becomes more upright and round when shaded.

Our lone specimen was donated in 2001 by Paul Saunders of Saunders Brothers Nursery in Piney River, Virginia. We planted this cultivar on Holly Hill and, after four years in the field, it has grown to 9" high x 23" wide (0.24 m x 0.59 m).

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' is semi-protected in our collection from strong winter winds, but remains

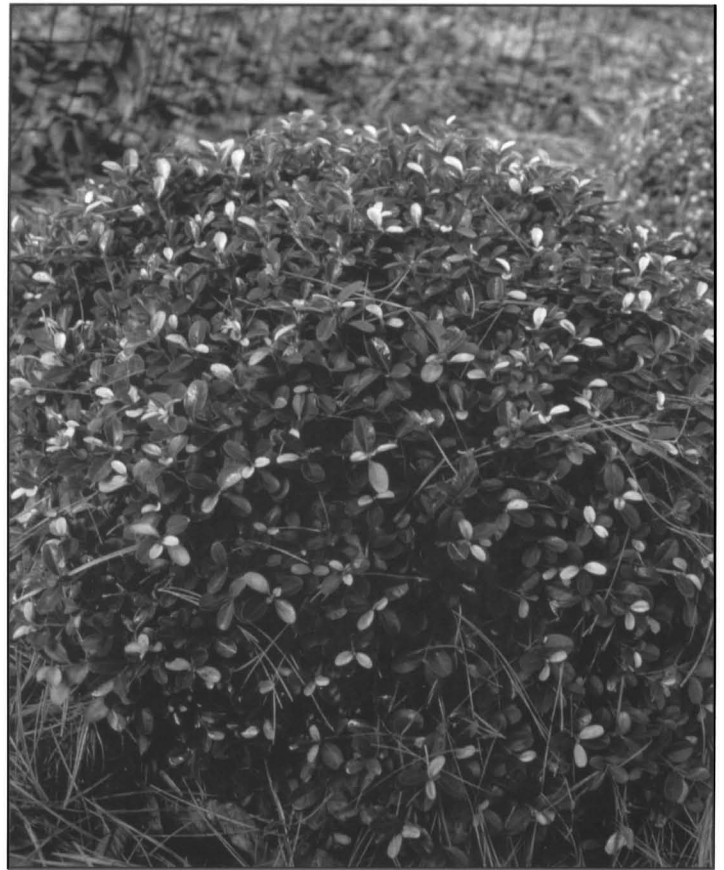
exposed to late afternoon sunlight. Under these conditions its winter foliage is a yellowish-green, and its habit is decidedly wider than tall. Inner foliage appears dull olive green (RHS 139a) with leaves ranging in size from 1/4"-5/8" long (7-17 mm) by 3/16"-3/8" wide (4-9 mm), linear in shape.

I find its procumbent habit an interesting and refreshing diversion to the usual mounded or bun-like habit of most boxwood. But clearly its ultimate form, as with many woody plants, varies significantly depending upon whether it is sited in full sun or in shade. Batdorf comments that the effect of light upon this cultivar is quite striking. When grown in shade, 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' retains a much darker green winter color, and it also becomes taller and more rounded. Specimens planted in exposed areas, by contrast, tend to be ground cover-like in habit and appear much lighter green in winter. Therefore, as with its precursor 'Compacta', 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' littleleaf boxwood requires a good deal of shade and protection to maintain good winter color in cold climates. In other respects, this cultivar seems perfectly winter hardy to USDA zone 5b.

***Buxus microphylla* 'Green Pillow', Green Pillow littleleaf boxwood.** This lovely, little dwarf form with Appleby-Hohman legacy was selected from seedlings in 1912 and eventually registered under its current name in 1962.

It's not often that a cultivar name so accurately describes the habit of the plant to which it refers as in the case of 'Green Pillow'. Our specimens appear as small pillow-like mounds that will mature into nearly perfect oval-shaped shrubs. We received our plants as cuttings in 1991 from the Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio. 'Green Pillow' was added to the Holly Hill collection in 1996 and presently measures 1' high x 2' wide (0.3 m x 0.6 m).

The leaves on 'Green Pillow' are elliptic-to-oval in shape, 3/8"-5/8" long (10-15 mm) by 3/16"-5/16" wide (5-8 mm) and glossy yellow-green in color (RHS 146a).



Buxus microphylla 'Green Pillow'. A lovely cushion-like selection that is remarkably uniform.

I have not observed any branch tip dieback on this cultivar although Batdorf mentions that some winter injury is likely when temperatures fall below -10°F (-23.3°C). I have found that 'Green Pillow' will discolor every winter to some degree in central Ohio, and I would rate the limit of its hardiness to USDA zone 5b. Most often winter injury takes the form of a light mottling or roughly circular pattern of yellow leaves surrounding darker leaves. Does this mean we should dismiss this plant because it does not retain its dark glossy green color year around? I think not. I find this two-toned appearance to be a charming and unique feature of 'Green Pillow'.

***Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf', Morris Dwarf Japanese littleleaf boxwood.** The Arboretum received three specimens of 'Morris Dwarf' in 1987 from Herman Losely and Son Nursery of Perry, Ohio. They are not currently a part of our formal boxwood collection but instead provide a most beautiful and integral component of the Bonsai Courtyard at our Visitors Center.

'Morris Dwarf' forms an exceptionally tight, mounded shrub growing less than two inches (5 cm) per year. Today, our plants stand 22" tall by 30" wide (0.55 m x 0.75 m).

Its dense array of foliage is supported by twiggy stems creating the impression of a fine-textured plant. Its leaves range in size from 3/16"-1/2" long (5-13 mm) by 3/16"-1/4" wide (4-7 mm) or about one-fourth to one-third the size of leaves on some selections of common boxwood (*B. sempervirens*). Inner foliage is dark yellow-green (RHS 147a) and outer tips discolor slightly to a light yellow-green.



Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf'. A compact form from the Morris Arboretum that matures to a lovely mound-like shrub.

The history of 'Morris Dwarf' in cultivation stems back to around 1950 when it distinguished itself from a batch of seedlings being reared and evaluated by Dr. Henry T. Skinner of the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I consider 'Morris Dwarf' to be a plant that possesses good winter hardiness and retains better than average winter color with a desirable compact habit. It can be used in a number of different garden scenarios, for example, in combination with dwarf conifers, with alpiners in rock gardens, or even in trough plantings. Its penchant for producing unwanted, vigorous shoots or reversions has often been cited by Batdorf and other

authors as a potential limitation. While we have experienced these reversions, they have been limited to only one of our specimens and required only a modicum of light pruning to rectify. As a result, I do not consider this tendency problematic enough to downgrade this cultivar. In fact, I have subsequently propagated 'Morris Dwarf' and look forward to the time when it will join other boxwood at Holly Hill.

***Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget', Morris Midget Japanese littleleaf boxwood.** As with 'Morris Dwarf', 'Morris Midget' is a 1950 Skinner introduction from the Morris Arboretum that originated as open-pollinated seedlings from 'Morris Dwarf'.

We grew our specimen from cuttings obtained at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Michigan in 1998. 'Morris Midget' was planted at Holly Hill in 2003 and now measures 12" tall by 19" wide (0.32 m by 0.48 m). This cultivar will mature as a densely branched, tight little mound to about 1 1/2' to 2' tall (0.46 m-0.61 m) by 3' to 5' wide (0.9 m-1.5 m) and can be used in the same manner as 'Morris Dwarf' with the added benefit of being slightly slower growing.

Leaves are glossy, slightly darker green than 'Morris

Dwarf' (RHS 137c), 1/2"-3/4" long (12-20 mm) by 1/4"-3/8" wide (7-10 mm) with an oval-to-linear outline.

'Morris Midget' seems perfectly stem-hardy in central Ohio, but winter color has so far been a disappointing combination of yellow-green to orange and bronze, and I would agree with other authors that its winter appeal is contingent upon its placement in shade or partial shade. Batdorf clearly favors 'Morris Midget' over 'Morris Dwarf' for its somewhat improved winter color and resistance to reversions. However, I hesitate to make such an evaluation because our speci-

mens of 'Morris Midget' are still quite young, and their long-term winter appeal is yet to be determined. Additionally, we do not at this time have a specimen of 'Morris Dwarf' at Holly Hill where it will be compared to 'Morris Midget' grown in similar exposures.

The leaves are oval-to-elliptic in shape, 3/16"-1/2" long (5-13 mm) by 3/16"-1/4" wide (47 mm) and exhibit a dull yellow-green winter color (RHS 137b). A percentage of growing tips will always display some bronze to purple after hard frosts but, in our region at least, I rate the

winter color of 'Pincushion' to be an improvement over that of the species and most of its other forms.

Its annual growth in central Ohio is about 3.1" (8 cm) or roughly equivalent to the old standby, Wintergreen Korean boxwood (*B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen'). Batdorf estimates the mature height (30 years) of 'Pincushion' to be around 8' tall (2.4 m). But in the colder extremes of the upper Midwest, it's likely to grow more slowly and remain 4'-5' tall (1.2-1.5 m). It is clear that 'Pincushion' is not a dwarf

in any sense but rather a compact-to-standard-sized boxwood depending upon where it might be grown.

***Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Tide Hill', (syn. *B. microphylla* 'Rococo'), Tide Hill Korean boxwood.** Rare in cultivation, 'Tide Hill' is a dwarf that derives its name from the Tide Hill Gardens of Long Island, New York. It was named and registered in 1954 by the Willowwood Arboretum of Gladstone, New Jersey.



Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget'. An especially tight bun-shaped dwarf from Morris Arboretum.

***Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Pincushion', Pincushion Korean littleleaf boxwood.** A little-known but worthy cultivar originating in Canada at the Sheridan Nurseries of Georgetown, Ontario and registered in 1993. We accessioned this cultivar in 1991 as cuttings from Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio.

'Pincushion' was added to our Holly Hill collection in the fall of 1996 and has now matured into a fine compact shrub growing slightly wider [3' 7" (1.1 m)] than tall [2' 7" (0.8 m)].



Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Pincushion' displays good winter color at Dawes Arboretum

Our specimen came from Environmental, Inc. of Cutchogue, New York in 1996 and was added to our Holly Hill collection a year later. After 8 years, our specimen stands 2' tall (0.62 m) by 23" wide (0.58 m) forming a beautiful flat-topped to mounded shrub.

Leaves are dull yellow-green (RHS 146a), 1/2"-3/4" long (14-20 mm) by 1/4"-3/8" wide (7-10 mm) with an elliptic-to-oblong outline. The

outer foliage on 'Tide Hill' generally takes on a bronze to bronze-orange cast in winter unless shaded or protected by snow.

I have long questioned the species classification of this cultivar because it is decidedly less cold hardy (USDA zone 6a) than any other form of the species that I have encountered. However, Batdorf has clearly documented the authenticity of this cultivar and its proper classification as a form of Korean littleleaf boxwood.



Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Tide Hill', (syn. *B. microphylla* 'Rococo'). An attractive flat-topped selection but it is unusually tender for its type.

Our specimen suffered minor branch tip dieback during the first two years after planting but its hardiness and vigor have slowly increased over the years. However, a subsequent planting of this cultivar failed to establish because of winter injury and had to be removed. Because of its tenderness, there is little doubt 'Tide Hill' will never gain popularity and widespread use in the Midwest. It is, nonetheless, a fine plant when it is sited in shade and protected from winter winds and sun. To date, I have not observed any significant mite infestation of 'Tide Hill' although it is reputedly very prone to mite damage, and its susceptibility to typical leaf miner and psyllid feeding is, in my experience, no greater or less than related boxwood.

In my next article, I shall concentrate on intermediate and spreading forms of boxwood and their performance in central Ohio.



Close detail of 'Green Pillow'

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Part II: Intermediate and Spreading Forms of Boxwood to follow at a later date.

Plant Profile

Lynn Batdorf

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Filigree'

CITATION

Nammen N. Bakker. List of Boxwood. Dutch Dendrology. 1989. This author has not been successful in locating this citation. Nammen Bakker lost all of his work in an unfortunate fire. Several helpful members of the Nederlandse Dendrologie tried to locate the citation, but they were also unsuccessful.

SIZE

While the mature size of *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Filigree' is unknown, it is expected to be under 8' (2.5 m) high.

HARDINESS

The cold-hardiness of 'Filigree' has not been fully tested. It is expected to be fully hardy in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6 with average minimum temperatures of -10° F (-23° C).

HABIT

True to its name, 'Filigree' is a delicate and intricate ornamental shrub. It has long, arching branches forming an open, low and wide habit. As a young plant, the lower branches do not spontaneously layer if covered with soil. The long internodes give 'Filigree' a somewhat open habit.

LEAVES

The small leaves are uniformly orbicular in shape and size with a retuse to obtuse apex. The leaves have a light green or sea green color.

STEM

The first-year twigs are glabrous and strongly quadrangular.

CULTURE

'Filigree' is available throughout Europe where it prefers the shade of trees. It has not yet made an appearance in North America.

PESTS

'Filigree' has not been widely evaluated for pest resistance. Preliminary results indicate juvenile shrubs in Europe are fairly resistant to pest problems.

LANDSCAPE USE

It is best used in a mass planting, as a ground cover, or in a container.

HISTORY

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Filigree' was named by the Langley Boxwood Nursery in Rake, near Liss, Hampshire, England. 'Filigree' was first published in 1989 with an undisclosed description. It was named several years earlier by the Langley Boxwood Nursery. 'Filigree' now has a complete, and valid, description and is accepted as a newly legitimized cultivar name.



Photos by Lynn Batdorf

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Filigree'

A Little Boxwood Charm

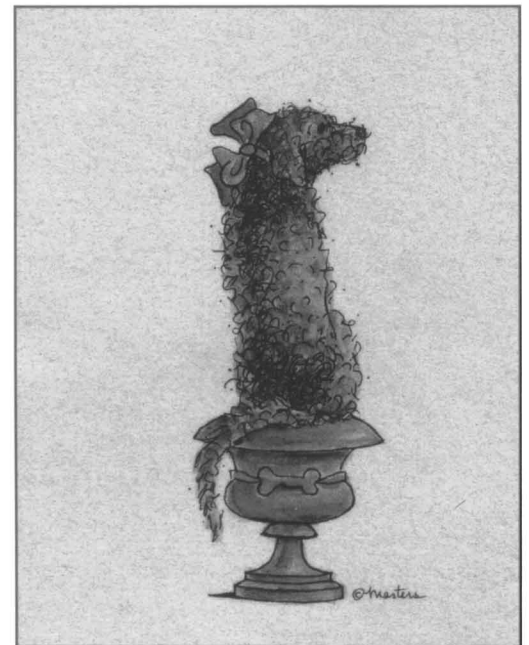
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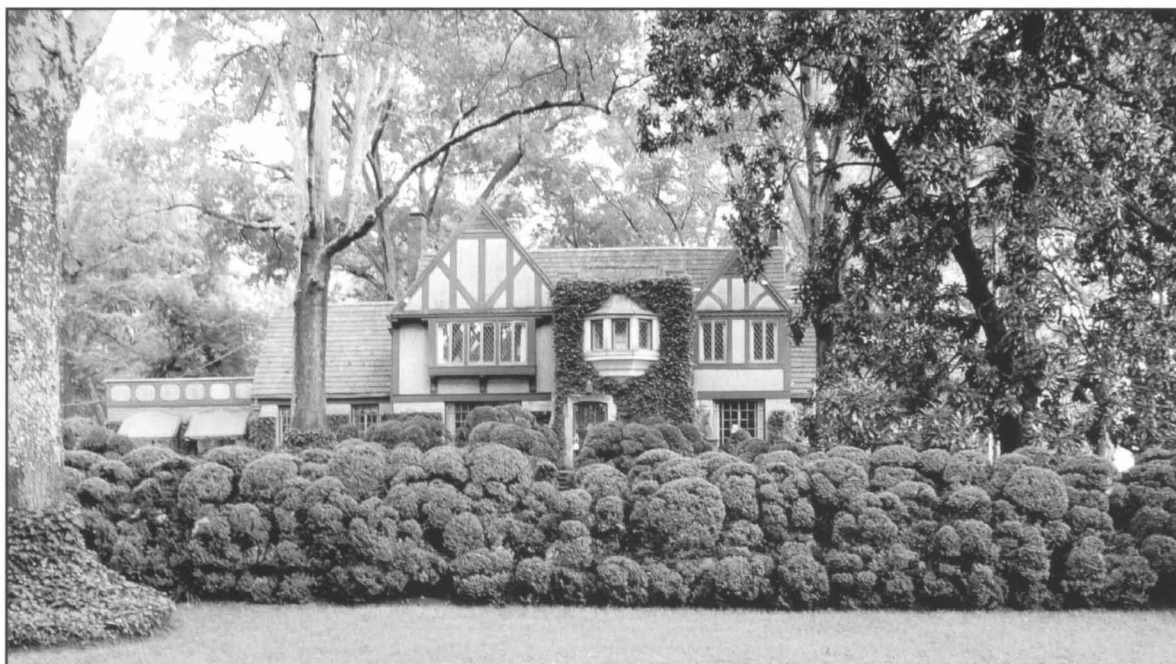
When looking for all things boxwood and topiary, I ran across some delightful notecards that seem to have extra vitality. I contacted the artist and was introduced to a bright and delightful collection of topiary forms on notecards as well as gift cards and totes. Since boxwood art is generally limited to botanical drawings, I hoped this modern-day artist might interest you.

Michelle Masters of the Finger Lakes region of New York has been creating unique topiary designs in the last few years. Working with the Preservation Society of Newport for a special project, she designed the Newport Mansions collection based on forms in the Green Animals topiary garden of Portsmouth, RI, including a pineapple topiary. She has developed several series of topiary cards, including dogs, cats, monograms, fashion, hats and wonderful seasonal designs, perfect for the winter holidays. She even has a series created for Ethan Allen's Children's wall décor line.

A devoted gardener and horsewoman, Michelle lives near Skaneateles, NY with her husband, two children, Jackson and Lauren, dogs, cats and horses. Michelle left a promising career in computer graphic design in order to pursue her dream of full-time painting. Her love of art and gardening originally produced a series of watercolors of whimsical topiary hats. Popular at home décor stores and regional art shows, Michelle now has a full line of designs. Topiary is a main element of her collection of framed watercolors, hand-painted pillows, fine linens, tote bags, gift cards and stationery.

People who admire boxwood can also show their sense of style and humor with Michelle's notecards. Look for yourself. Michelle's work can be viewed at www.michellemasters.com. I think you will be delighted.





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